

# Colodny Ties Threats to Testimony

## Calls Were to Keep Him Quiet, He Says

By Bob Gettlin  
Washington Star Staff Writer

Former Montgomery County liquor consultant Leonard I. Colodny yesterday offered an explanation for numerous telephone threats against his family and insisted that tapes of the anonymous calls — including one with a mysterious 21-second gap — should become key evidence in current investigations of the agency.

Colodny, who played portions of the tapes at a news conference, said he is convinced that the threats were intended to keep him from giving sworn testimony to the County Council last year.

He noted that the calls, which began on Nov. 1, 1989, came one day after he said he would present the council with the sworn statement about alleged improprieties in the county Department of Liquor Control.

Colodny, undeterred, issued the statement. He said that investigators for the county Merit System Protection Board and the County Council should use the tapes in their investigations.

Colodny also said he will ask the U.S. attorney in Baltimore to begin a federal investigation of the liquor controversy because "we need one law-enforcement official to look at all the charges, which appear to be growing almost daily."

The chairman of the Maryland Republican Party already has requested federal intervention. Colodny said he wants Stanton J. Gildenhorn, chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, to make this a non-partisan issue and join in the request to the U.S. attorney.

One of the taped threats played yesterday involves a person who said to Colodny: "Why do you like spring on people? What do you get out of it? Pleasure for yourself. Later on it's not going to do anything."

"But I know some things about you that you don't know," the caller says on the tape. Colodny responds, "Who am I?"

"Hopefully, a human being," the caller says. "Not too sure lately, but I think so."

In the same call the person asks Colodny, "Well, what are you going to try doing? Are you going to try possibly taping this conversation?" Colodny then asks the anonymous caller, "What do you want?"

See COLODNY, C-2



Leonard I. Colodny distributes copies of his deposition on the tapes to reporters at a press conference at his home in Adelphi.

# Colodny Links Call Threats To Impending Testimony

Continued from C-1

The caller responds: "What are you going to do, tape this conversation?" Twice more in the conversation the caller demands to know if Colodny is using a tape recorder.

Yesterday, Colodny also said that the tape recording with the 21-second gap is important for the investigations of the liquor department.

He said the portion of the tape that was wiped out shows that David J. Borak of Silver Spring, who has been convicted of making harassing calls to the Colodny home in Prince George's County, could not have made the threat included on the erased tape.

Colodny played an undeleted version of the conversation, which was obtained from a Montgomery County police copy of the tape. It involved the conversation between Colodny's daughter and the anonymous caller.

in which the caller threatened the life of Colodny's son.

But in his confession to police, Borak claimed that he threatened only Colodny, not the son or daughter. Colodny noted that on the tape with the gap it is unclear who is making the threat and who is the object of the threat.

The Prince George's County police had evidence that other persons besides David Borak were involved, Colodny said. "My family is still exposed to people who have not been caught. We are exposed because I'm still a key witness in any investigation into the liquor department."

Prince George's County State's Attorney Arthur A. Marshall Jr. said this week that the gap occurred while the tape was in official custody. He had no explanation for the gap but said it must have been caused by a mishap by county police or by someone in the state's attorney's office.

Marshall also conceded that probably there are other people involved, but how are we supposed to find them?